



POTENTIAL INTERIM STUDY TOPICS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE, 2008

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, 4/1/08

MASTER STUDY RESOLUTION

ADOPTION

74. **Adoption Law Changes** - to study modifying current adoption law to remove restrictions on cohabitating adults and assess whether the current law impedes adoptions and foster care placements (H.B. 318).
119. **Utah Adoption Code** - to study Utah's adoption code and the Utah Termination of Parental Rights Act to ascertain whether it properly protects the rights of unwed fathers and parents from minority backgrounds, and whether it complies with federal and state constitutional law regarding notice as recently interpreted by United States Supreme Court cases.

CHILD WELFARE

117. **Trauma Counseling for Parents** - to study trauma counseling for parents whose children are removed from the home by the Division of Child and Family Services.

DEATH

79. **Authorization for Autopsy** - to study the implications of providing that a majority of family members who desire an autopsy may override an order of the next of kin that an autopsy not take place (UCA Subsection 26-4-24(1)(c)).
88. **Death Certificate Procedures** - to study data and form requirements of custodial funeral directors and physicians related to processing death certificates (S.B. 175).
102. **Medical Examiner's Office** - to study the adequacy of funding and the feasibility of establishing regional facilities.

DISABILITIES

80. **Autism** - to study the costs and impact of autism on Utah children.
89. **Disability Standards** - to study uniformity of disability standards

adopted by the state of Utah and enforcement of standards not adopted by the state.

110. **Respite Care** - to study respite care for persons on the Disability Waiting List.

HEALTH CARE (COST, QUALITY, ACCESS)

94. **Health Care for Underserved and Underinsured** - to study access to comprehensive primary health care for the medically underserved and underinsured, and the role of community health care centers in expanding cost-effective care and providing a medical home.
83. **Children's Health** - to study the feasibility of establishing a medical home for all children with chronic medical and mental health conditions in Utah.
87. **Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)** - to study the extent to which the state's health care delivery systems meet the national CLAS standards and current proposed efforts to meet those standards.
114. **Statewide Standards for Health Care Interpreters** - to study requiring the Department of Health to evaluate the effectiveness of health care interpreter services in the state (1st Sub. H.B. 428).
93. **Health Care** - to study issues related to health care.
95. **Health Disparities** - to study issues related to health disparities: review problems and solutions.
106. **Patient Safety** - to study the role of government in addressing issues related to patient safety in Utah's health care facilities.

HEALTH INSURANCE

73. **Access to Health Insurance** - to study providing that every citizen of Utah, regardless of health status, may purchase health insurance available to any other Utah citizen,

with guaranteed issue and community rating.

96. **Health Plan Exemption from Selected Requirements** - to study allowing insurers to offer health insurance coverage to uninsurable individuals that is exempt from certain mandates (1st Sub. H.B. 491).
98. **Insurance Parity** - to study prosthetic Limb Health Insurance Parity (H.B. 108).

LONG-TERM CARE

75. **Aging and Disability Care and Supports** - to study and determine the most effective balance between proactive and preventive supports, including acute care, in meeting needs in the aging and disability populations.
76. **Aging and Disability Populations** - to study the existing and potential demand and cost of facility-based care vs. community-based supports for people with disabilities and the aging population.
84. **Community-based Support Structure** - to study the community-based support structure: how the state can develop the community infrastructure to support individuals with disabilities and the aging population in an effective manner, and how the state can attract and retain qualified direct care staff to support persons with disabilities and the elderly in the community.
99. **Long-term Care Demographic Shifts** - to study how changing demographic factors, including an increasing aging population, influence the need for long-term care change over the lifespan, and how Utah will confront these changes.
103. **Nursing Homes** - to study a Medicare moratorium, reimbursement, and Medicaid beds.

MEDICAID AND CHIP

81. **Barriers to Medicaid Participation** - to study the asset test and other barriers of Medicaid participation, the pros, cons and costs to the state of removing the asset test, and similar barriers to health care coverage.
85. **Comprehensive Care Coordination** - to study what amount of reimbursement, training, and education on best practices would be required for primary health care providers to provide comprehensive care coordination within Medicaid.
100. **Medicaid Assistance and Managed Care** - to study providing managed care, chronic care management, and other services to Medicaid clients and CHIP recipients (S.B. 133).

MENTAL HEALTH

97. **Identifying Support Animals** - to study an identification scheme for emotional support animals.
113. **State Hospital** - to study and evaluate the possible privatization of the State Hospital by July 1, 2009, including issuing requests for information from interested private providers and hiring a private consultant, to determine whether a private provider could at funding levels authorized to the State Hospital in fiscal year 2009:
- (a) operate and manage the State Hospital at its current location:
 - (i) while maintaining or improving upon the services and quality of care currently provided at the State Hospital; and
 - (ii) implementing the applicable recommendations included in the Performance Audit of the Utah State Hospital performed by the Office of the Utah Legislative Auditor General, dated January 2008;
 - (b) demolish the Medical Services Building;
 - (c) finance, design, and construct:

- (i) a new Medical Services Building; and
 - (ii) a new Pediatric Treatment Facility;
- (d) convert 24 beds in the Rampton Complex to forensic beds; and
- (e) pay transition costs of a private entity taking over the operation and management of the State Hospital.

PHARMACEUTICALS

107. **Preferred Drug List** - to study preferred drug lists: successes, failures, and options.
115. **Telepharmacy** - to study defining "telepharmacy" (S.B. 291).

PROVIDERS

77. **Anesthesiologist Assistants** - to study the licensing of anesthesiologist assistants.
82. **Billing Practices** - to study issues related to hospital billing practices.
86. **Contract Provider Pay** - to study contract provider pay in the Department of Health and [the Department of] Human Services.
92. **EMS Paramedic Program** - to study needs and necessity, and agency expansion.
108. **Prescription Licensure** - to study prescription licensure of psychologists.

PUBLIC HEALTH

111. **Sexually Transmitted Disease Rate** - to study Utah's dramatically increasing rate and how to best educate, prevent, and ensure treatment for those who are infected.
116. **Therapy for Sexually Transmitted Diseases** - to study expedited partner therapy for sexually transmitted diseases (S.B. 289).
120. **Vaccinations** - to study reducing health care costs by increasing childhood vaccinations for preventive diseases and increasing public awareness of the health benefits of vaccinations to the general public.
158. **Health Department Funding** - to study allowing counties to increase their mill levy to fund county health departments or other means to

increase county health department funding.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MISUSE

109. **Prescription Overdose** - to study the impact of unintended overdoses from prescription drugs.
90. **Drug Overdose and DUI Reporting and Controlled Substances Monitoring** - to study the feasibility and impact of requiring hospitals to report admissions for drug overdoses to the Department of Health and to the prescribing health care practitioner; creating a process for developing better practice protocols for prescribing controlled substances and monitoring patient use; and exploring the feasibility of having law enforcement or the courts report arrests or convictions for driving under the influence of a prescribed controlled substance to the health care practitioner who prescribed the controlled substance.
125. **Physician Liability** - to study requiring physicians to be liable for drug addiction resulting from their prescribing schedule 2 drugs (Stephenson amendment to H.B. 119).
118. **Treatment Program Availability** - to study ways to increase the availability of substance abuse and mental health treatment programs.

TORT REFORM

101. **[Medical] Malpractice** - to study [Medical] malpractice reform.

WELLNESS

104. **Obesity** - to study expanding obesity prevention programs in Gold Medal Schools and the role of "Utah Partnership for a Healthy Weight."

STATUTES REPEALED IN 2009

SUNSET REVIEW

- Detection of Public Health Emergencies Act (Title 26, Chapter 23b; see §631-1-226)

- Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services (§62A-5-103.2; see §63I-1-262)
- Utah Commission on Aging (Title 63M, Chapter 11; see §63I-1-263)
- Medical Malpractice Arbitration Agreements (§78B-3-421; see §63I-1-278)

NO SUNSET REVIEW

- Adjoining Private Clubs and Public Places - Grandfather Provisions (related to Indoor Clean Air Act; reauthorization made moot by 2007 legislation; §26-38-4; see §63I-2-226)

ANNUAL AND PERIODIC REPORTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

All reports are due this year unless otherwise noted and regardless of whether they are scheduled on an agenda. Reports with an asterisk fall within the purview of the committee but are required by statute to be made to the Executive Appropriations Committee, legislative leadership, or simply "the Legislature" rather than the Health and Human Services Interim Committee. Reports to the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee are not included in the list below. All reporting requirements may be satisfied with a written report.

AGING

- Utah Commission on Aging*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Center for Multicultural Health*
- Health Data Committee*
- Sale of raw whole milk
- Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee
- Electronic exchange of clinical health information

DISABILITIES

- Disability Determination Services Advisory Council
- DSPD services criteria and prioritization (periodic)
- Family preservation services pilot program

HEALTH INSURANCE

- Evaluation of health insurance market
- Health insurance benefit design
- Hemophilia services grants
- HIPUtah (Utah Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool)*
- HIPUtah pilot program for discounted bleeding disorder drugs (prior to 10/30/10)
- Health insurance notice of exclusion of coverage for secondary conditions

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Licensed direct-entry midwives
- Medical Education Council (as needed)*
- Rural residency training pilot program

MEDICAID/CHIP

- Children's Health Insurance Program
- Drug Utilization Review Board*
- Preferred drug list
- Primary care grants
- Medicaid 340B drug pricing program (quarterly)

MENTAL HEALTH

- Rural professional education program

MISCELLANEOUS

- Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel
- Low and moderate income housing
- New programs and agencies (none for 2008)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MISUSE

- Medical examiner testing for substances in cases of suspected suicide
- Pain medication management and education
- Substance abuse and mental health program audits and reviews
- Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council*
- Real-time use of controlled substance database

TOBACCO

- Tobacco settlement revenues

- Tobacco—2002 cigarette tax increase

HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE REVIEWS

The Committee is required to annually determine whether it wishes to review any health insurance mandate that has been in effect for at least five years and not reviewed within the past 10 years (see §36-12-5).

LEGISLATIVE AUDITS

- Carson Smith Scholarship for Students with Special Needs (January 2008)
- Utah State Hospital (January 2008)
- Davis Behavioral Health
- In-depth Follow-up of Guardian ad Litem Audit

RELATED LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUPS

- Health System Reform Task Force
- Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel